

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

June 1, 2006

(Approved September 7, 2006)

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Karen Schlitzer, Brad Simpkins, Michael Williams, Carl Roediger, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, George Sykes, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Earl Sweeney, Al Burbank, Joseph Butts.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2006 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. May 4, 2006. *Motion* was made by Commissioner Carrier, seconded by Commissioner Murdough, to approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2006 Commission Meeting with the following change: Page 7, Item 2, last paragraph, first sentence, add the word “it” before “alone” so that sentence will read, “Chair Duquette stated currently we leave it alone.” Motion passed, with Commissioner Schlitzer abstaining as she was not present at that meeting.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Duquette announced that dinner will be held in the cafeteria tonight at 5:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a public hearing in the auditorium with the Criminal Justice/Public Safety Committee of the House of Representatives.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chief Prentiss was absent so no report was given.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan gave his report for the Fire Marshal's Office.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave the following report:

- (a) Wildland Fires to date: 376
Acres to date: 481
Structures impacted: 6
- (b) We had the busiest spring fire season in ten years. We used the helicopter four times. Our largest fire was in Gorham at 98 acres. We have several ongoing investigations.
- (c) The Bureau responded to the recent flooding. We manned the state EOC for two days, along with Rangers, Tower watchmen, and four Special Deputies going to the towns of East Kingston, Goffstown, and Hampton with portable pumps to assist those communities.
- (d) We currently have a single resource in Texas working as a helicopter manager for wildland fire suppression. Out-of-state activity is picking up, especially in the Southwest.
- (e) We currently have chosen two candidates for Forest Ranger; we are offering conditional offers of employment to them, and we will be starting the background checks next week. We hope to have them on by mid-July.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
 - (1) Pumps:
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus:
The visiting committee has met recently and is looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program that will then be updated.
Chief Rosolen said that he is still waiting for the Aerial curriculum.
 - (3) All Vehicle:
We are currently looking for places to hold the practical portion as this is becoming difficult to offer because of the lack of space to hold the driver practical.

- (b) **Hazardous Materials:**
 - (1) Operations:
 - (2) Technician:
Class scheduled in Dover in September
 - (3) The Decontamination program is being reviewed at this time and is looking at the Vermont program. This will be presented possibly in the fall.
- (c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**
Spring part 139 8- hour programs have begun.
- (d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**
 - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations.
Commissioner Sykes said there is a meeting later this month to start the writing process for Fire Inspector II.
 - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator committee is very close in finishing their curriculum and is estimating to come before the Commission's curriculum committee soon.
 - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.
- (e) **Rescue Series:**
 - (1) Structural Collapse:
No pilots scheduled as yet. It was learned that Rope, Trench, Confined Space, and Vehicle/Machinery Extrication are necessary to have before Structural Collapse can be offered according to the standard.
 - (2) Confined Space:
A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time. A confined space class will be scheduled for Nashua this winter/spring.
 - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending visiting committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.
Still working on getting the CMC TtT.
 - (4) Trench Rescue
Approved for pilot.
 - (5) Water Rescue/Ice
Four instructors will be attending a 3-day TtT on February 17-19 to return to present the program for review.
- (f) **NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:** No report.
- (g) **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:**
A spring class was scheduled here in March and April and was very successful.
- (h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**
An Instructor III class has just started in Salem.

- (i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:
Doing well at this point..
- (j) C2F2
The April class is completed and one scheduled for recruit school in June.
- (k) ICS/NIMS
Starting to regionalize these programs for more effective and economical delivery.

Item 5. Hiring Practices Committee. No report given.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #102. The Director's Report #102 for June 1, 2006 was as follows:

As we wind down our first half of 2006 we seem to be having record-breaking statistics regarding student and class numbers. We continue to offer full courses around the State and at the Academy. Hope you all have a GREAT summer!

- 1) RECRUIT SCHOOL STATUS
Tomorrow marks the end of the FFII program in recruit school, nine weeks down and two to go. This means C2F2 starts Monday, and June 16, 2006 is the entire Recruit School Graduation. I will be unable to attend due to my daughter Jennifer's graduation from high school that night!
- 2) PRICES OF COURSES
Chief Phillips developed a form to price all classes, which is consistent and covers all costs, even expendable items (i.e., junk cars for Firefighter II). The new prices have been approved by Commissioner Flynn and are in your packet. We have been low in some and high in others.
- 3) WAIVER RULES
Part Fire 704 Waivers of our Administrative Rules have been filed, and have been approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Our next action is to vote on the approved document, which will be filed by next week and will be in effect at that time...this is one of the most painless rules processes I have seen!
- 4) RULES...PART 2
Our rules expire August 2008, so it is time to start the process so we do not find ourselves where some go...emergency or interim rules. If we take this year to formulate changes desired, then a year to shape and adopt, we will not find ourselves rushing at the last minute.
During the summer, please review the rules and come to the September 7, 2006 meeting with your suggested changes. From an administrative standpoint, I would like Part Fire 200, *Petitions and Hearing Procedures*, changed to closer meet the State's accepted procedures.

5) PEASE FIRE STATION

A new fire station was built at the Pease Air National Guard Base with a Grand Opening at noon today, which I attended. A very nice facility, with a real classroom...their old classroom was about 20-feet wide and 50-feet long, very difficult for classes! CONGRATULATIONS TO PEASE FD!

6) PFFNH CONFERENCE

Chief Prentiss and I spoke at the Professional Firefighters of NH Conference on May 9 in Nashua. Basically this was an update on what is happening in the Division.

7) EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Governor Lynch Proclaimed May 14 – 20, 2006 EMS Provider Appreciation week in a proclamation read at the Governor & Council Meeting on May 17.

Other items discussed:

8) FLOODS

At the Fire Academy, the floodwaters came up to just below the receiving area of the Administration Building. A pond in Loudon on the Soucook River overflowed.

In Epsom, the Suncook River changed its bed, breaking through a sandpit.

9) BOY SCOUTS

The Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts met four days in Washington. A Rabbi spoke about responding to incidents at the Jamboree where people died in camp, and how the Chaplain corps responded.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Hiring Transfer Rule. Director Mason reported that it was determined that the person requesting the transfer does not have C2F2. The way the Rules are written, Commissioner Schlitzer has stated that he does need C2F2.

Item 2. I-93 Project. Commissioner Murdough gave the following report on the I-93 Project:

Information is available at www.rebuildingi93.com

The final report from the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) working group will be released at a meeting on June 14. NHDOT has \$3.5 million available to assist local communities in planning for the impacts of the project. At the last meeting, the community representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of using the money for direct assistance to communities. A steering committee has been formed to make recommendations on how to allocate the funds.

NHDOT estimates that the population in the affected communities will increase by 25% in the next 15 years with or without the I-93 project. They estimate that widening I-93 will cause an additional 7% increase in population. That translates to an additional 120,000 people in 26 communities between Salem and Concord by the year 2020.

Item 3. Firefighters' Memorial Brick. An additional \$80 is needed to be able to purchase the Firefighters' Memorial Brick that the Commission members want. The Division will pay the difference.

Item 4. PART Fire 704 WAIVERS. Motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Carrier, to adopt PART Fire 704 WAIVERS as presented:

PART Fire 704 WAIVERS

Fire 704.01 Request for Waiver.

(a) An agency may make a written request to waive any of the minimum selection, educational, and training standards for fire service personnel. The request shall be made within 30 days of the employment date for an employment position.

(b) The request shall specify:

- (1) What rule or rules for which a waiver is requested;
- (2) The reason for waiver request;
- (3) The information and signature required on "Form A" in Fire 601.01;
- (4) The current position description; and
- (5) The description of responsibilities relating to emergency response and/or mitigation.

(c) Waiver requests that do not meet the requirements of this rule shall be returned to the agency with a written explanation. An agency may resubmit a waiver request but it shall not stay the tolling of the 30 days set forth in (a) above.

Fire 704.02 Determination of Waiver.

- (a) The Commission shall grant a request for a waiver if it determines that the fire service position specified in Fire 704.01 does not include emergency response and mitigation as its predominant responsibilities.
- (b) The Commission shall deny a request for a waiver if:
 - (1) The request is untimely; or
 - (2) The Commission determines that the fire service position specified in Fire 704.01 includes emergency response and mitigation as its predominant responsibilities.
- (c) Anyone aggrieved by a determination by the Commission may request a hearing pursuant to Fire 200.

Fire 704.03 Duration of Waiver. When a waiver is granted, it shall only be valid while the employee granted a waiver in Fire 704.01 is employed in that said position.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Fire Academy Sign. Commissioner Simpkins noted that the sign for the Fire Academy on Route 106 has been blocked by vegetation. Director Mason said that new signs are being made.

Item 2. Academy Awards. Chair Duquette reminded everyone that the deadline for this year's Academy Awards nominations is July 1.

Item 3. Definition of Paid Firefighter in our Rules. A discussion was held about defining "Paid Firefighter" in our Rules. It was suggested that we take the money aspect out of the Rules.

The IRS codes are being changed now. As soon as this is done, the Legislature in New Hampshire will be adopting the new IRS codes.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Summer. Chair Duquette announced that there will be no Commission meetings in July and August.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Roediger, to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 06/01/06
2. Minutes of Meeting – 03/02/06 – Approved 04/13/06
3. Curriculum Status Report 06/01/06
4. Minutes of Meeting – 05/04/06 – Not Approved
5. Director's Report #102—June 1, 2006
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/05 to 06/01/06
7. Adopted Rule 06/01/06, PART Fire 704 WAIVERS
8. NH Fire Academy Courses Price Changes
9. CHAPTER Fire RULES, which expire August 2008

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